

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Gabriel Amaro Morales.

Information Regarding Applicant's Service on the Santa Barbara Workforce Investment Board: In his second essay answer on his supplemental application regarding his ability to be impartial, Applicant discussed his service as a member of the Santa Barbara Workforce Investment Board. According to its website, the Board is dedicated to serving the workforce needs of businesses, adults, laid-off workers, and youth throughout Santa Barbara County. The Board is a public/private partnership created pursuant to the Federal Workforce Investment Act and is staffed by the County of Santa Barbara. It provides free services through two Workforce Resource Centers. Board programs include employment services for job seekers, compiling labor market information, performing regional workforce research for businesses, and providing training to help people gain the skills and confidence necessary to find and obtain a job. Members of the Board make decisions about the programs offered and the disbursement of funds for those programs.

Bureau staff asked Applicant how he obtained his position on the Board. Applicant responded that he was appointed to the position by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. California Constitution, article XXI, section 2, subdivision (c)(6) provides that a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission shall be ineligible, for a period of five years beginning from the date of appointment, to hold appointive local public office. California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 60804.1, subdivision (b) provides that "appointive local public office includes a public office at the county level that is filled by a person or persons holding elective public office at the county level, is filled by a person who serves a fixed term or serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority, and entitles the officeholder to make governmental decisions. As a member of the Workforce Investment Board, Applicant serves in a public office established within county government that is filled by persons holding elective public office at the county level, he serves in the position for a fixed term, and has authority to make governmental decisions by voting as a member of the Board. As such, if Applicant is appointed to serve as a member of the Commission, he will be required to resign from his position on the Board under California Constitution, article XXI, section 2, subdivision (c)(6).

Other Information: In his second essay answer on his supplemental application regarding his ability to be impartial, Applicant discussed his service as a member of the Santa Barbara County Youth Advisory Council. According to the website for the Santa Barbara Workforce Investment Board, the Council is a committee of the Board.

Applicant told staff that his daughter was an unpaid intern in the office of Republican Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee in 2008 during her sophomore year in high school. Applicant related that Assemblyman Blakeslee had a satellite office at the Center for Employment Training, where Applicant is employed as the Director. Applicant said that he heard the Assemblyman's office was seeking interns, and he passed this information along to his daughter. Applicant's daughter then pursued the opportunity for internship with her school and Mr. Blakeslee's office. According to Applicant, while he told his daughter of the opportunity; she sought and obtained the internship entirely on her own.

In the "Financial Contributions" section of his supplemental application, Applicant reported contributing in excess of \$20,000 to the Foursquare Church over a two-year period. According to its website, the Foursquare Church, officially known as the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, is an evangelical Pentecostal Christian church with over 8,000,000 members and almost 60,000 churches in 144 countries. It was founded by Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson in Los Angeles in 1927.

Staff contacted Raymond McDonald, the author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Mr. McDonald confirmed the information in his letter and added that Applicant is "trying to have an impact." For example, Applicant is part of an anti-gang taskforce that includes law enforcement, community members, judicial members, and gang members. Mr. McDonald stated that everyone is afraid of the gang members, but Applicant is able to bring these people together and develop action plans.

Recommendation: None.

Name and Title of Person Submitting Report: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report Date: September 18, 2010